

# KanCare Advisor

*This biweekly news bulletin is designed to provide updates on the readiness and implementation of KanCare. Information is published by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services.*

October 24, 2012



## Message from *Director of Medicaid Services, Dr. Susan Mosier...*

Welcome to this inaugural edition of the *KanCare Advisor*. The purpose of this news bulletin is to offer you a biweekly update on KanCare, Kansas' new Medicaid program, which is scheduled to

start Jan. 1, 2013. KanCare is an integrated system of healthcare delivery that is focused on improving the health of our most vulnerable Kansans by effectively coordinating care and services across the whole spectrum of healthcare – physical, behavioral health, mental health and long-term care. This coordination of care will also decrease the rate at which the cost of Medicaid is rising. This rapidly increasing cost of Medicaid nationwide has each state looking for solutions. In Kansas, we made the commitment to not consider any solution that reduced the set of services available to beneficiaries, that reduced eligibility requirements (i.e., making it less likely that people qualify for Medicaid services) or that reduced payments to providers. These solutions may reduce costs in the short run, but they do not improve the health of our citizens or their quality of care.

On Oct. 18, State of Kansas healthcare leadership met with our partners at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in Baltimore, Md., to discuss KanCare implementation. The meeting was very productive, and all parties remain committed to providing the best possible care for Kansas citizens. The leadership at CMS believes in integrated, coordinated care as a major step forward in healthcare delivery and told us they are committed to helping us make KanCare a success.

On Oct. 19, the State made the decision to move forward with starting the process that will generate the initial assignment to a health plan for our beneficiaries. These three health plans (also called managed care organizations, or MCOs) are UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, Amerigroup Kansas and Sunflower State Health Plan. The health plans have done an excellent job in reaching out to providers and building their networks. The State will review the results of this initial assignment and send out the pre-enrollment packets as soon as early November. The health plans will not reach out to KanCare beneficiaries until after the initial assignment/pre-enrollment packets have been mailed. KanCare beneficiaries will have at least 90 days to review the materials in their packets and decide whether they want to stay with their initial assigned health plan or choose a different health plan.

We are on the road to integrated, coordinated care focused on the whole person, and we will continue to keep you updated and informed as to our progress. Thank you for your interest in KanCare and in your commitment to our most vulnerable citizens.

## Upcoming Events

**Weekly Stakeholder Status Calls**—These are held each Wednesday from 10:30—11:30 a.m. The tele-conference number or conference code could change, so please check the KanCare website for the correct call-in information. On this call, the State of Kansas and the three health plans provide the updates, followed by an operator-assisted Q/A session.

**“Medicaid Reform” in Overland Park**—On Thursday, Oct. 25, Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D., and representatives from Kansas Policy Institute and the Foundation for Government Accountability will speak in Overland Park at Regnier Hall Auditorium on the KU Edwards Campus (12600 Quivera Road) from 10 a.m. to noon. Please RSVP at 316-634-0218.

**Consumer Education Meetings** —The next round of KanCare educational sessions for Consumers is slated for the end of November. These sessions will take place between Nov. 26 and 29 and will be delivered in 12 cities across Kansas. At this point, if everything remains on track with readiness activities, the enrollment packets will have been mailed to members. This will be the first opportunity for MCOs to meet with the consumers and provide details about their value-added services. Meeting details will be announced as they are available.

**Member/Advocate In-Practice Training**—These sessions will aid Medicaid providers and advocates who work directly with the clients, helping our members with KanCare details like choosing an MCO and learning about the new services. The first training is set for Oct. 31 at 11:30 a.m., and will be conducted as a webinar. Look in the Events section for Providers on the KanCare website for training details and material.

**DCF Staff Training** —KanCare training has been developed for eligibility staff in the Dept. for Children & Families. One-hour training sessions will be delivered between Oct. 30 and Nov. 7. For details, DCF staff can contact Bruce Sergeant 785-296-4327, x210.



**Status of MCO Provider Manuals**—The State of Kansas has completed its initial review of the provider manuals that were submitted by the three KanCare managed care organizations. The MCOs are very close to having the necessary changes made for final approval and will soon have them published for providers. Thank you for your patience! The manuals must conform to the State's requirements for KanCare. During this time, KDHE and KDADS have encouraged providers to carry out the necessary contracting activities with the draft manuals that were made available, with the understanding that the final versions would be substantially similar, with the only revisions being those items the State has already announced as requirements for plans and providers. To provide additional assurance, the State secured commitments from the KanCare MCOs that they will revisit with providers who may have concerns about any changes in the final versions of the manuals.

## **More Choices. Better Access. Healthy Patients.**

### **Available Starting Today—KanCare “Pro-Patient / Pro-Taxpayer” One-Pager**

We have designed a KanCare flyer summarizing the features of KanCare. If you are interested in printing and posting copies of it in your offices, you can download it at [www.kancare.ks.gov/news.htm](http://www.kancare.ks.gov/news.htm)

### ***Q & A of the Day***

**Q: Under KanCare, what reimbursement is available for out-of-network providers ?**

**A:** The State's contract with Medicaid MCOs provides that “if [providers] do not contract with the MCO, out-of-network providers will receive 90% of fee-for-service rates.” **For more details, search Bulletin #12099 at <https://www.kmap-state-ks.us/Public/Bulletins/bulletinsearch.asp>**

**The Governor's KanCare Advisory Council meets next on Nov. 13 at the Curtis State Office Building, Room 530, at 2:00 p.m.**

**KanCare Advisor** will be published biweekly. Thank you for taking the time to read our first edition. Please address questions and concerns about this news bulletin and the KanCare website to the KanCare External Communications Team at 785-296-5795 or [msteele@kdheks.gov](mailto:msteele@kdheks.gov).

### **External Stakeholder Workgroups**

There are four external stakeholder workgroups associated with the implementation of KanCare. Each has well-rounded representation from constituency groups and at least one KanCare Advisory Council member. These work groups collaborate with representatives from the KanCare Inter-agency Implementation Team to address issues impacting Medicaid beneficiaries and providers in Kansas.

#### **Next Workgroup Meetings**



**Providers:** Nov. 29, DCF Learning Center, Room D, 9 a.m. to noon.

**Managed Care Organizations:** Nov. 19, DCF Learning Center, Room B, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Member Involvement and Protections:** Nov. 14, Landon State Office Building, Room 9A, 2 to 4 p.m.

**Specialized Healthcare and Network Issues:** Nov. 5, Landon State Office Building, Room 106, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The Meeting Minutes for KanCare External Stakeholder Workgroups can be found at [www.KanCare.ks.gov](http://www.KanCare.ks.gov) in the Advisory Council section.